THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir, Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) has signed a Sale Purchase Agreement (SPA) with M/s Rasgas of Qatar for supply of 7.5 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) (5 MMTPA for Dahej LNG Project in Gujarat and 2.5 MMTPA for Kochi LNG Project in Kerala) of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) for 25 years through a global competitive bidding process, Dahej project is mechanically complete and the first load of LNG will be arriving in January 2004. The pre-project activities for Kochi project have been completed. Further progress would depend upon market tie up.

(b) The price formula of LNG is a part of SPA and has been settled between Rasgas and PLL.

(c) and (d) Worldwide, generally the prices of LNG are indexed to crude oil. Gas Sales Agreement (GSA) for PLL's LNG from Rasgas has been settled based on international competitive bidding.

(e) No, Sir. LNG involves a large investment at upstream for liquefaction, cryogenic shipping and regassification of liquid LNG and hence the price of LNG is normally higher. Many of the private parties producing natural gas in the country are selling their gas at a price which may be close to the price of LNG.

Illegal encroachment of area of Gandhi Ashram

†2281. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the area in acres of the Gandhi Ashram situated in the Kingsway Camp and its present status of operation and the activities being run by it;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said Ashram is being rented out illegally and a number of other illegal possession and activities have also been going over there; and

(c) whether Government would like to take steps in order to take the said Ashram in its direct possession and thereby bringing it in its original shape so that its objectives may be fulfilled?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIJAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) The Gandhi Ashram at Pilani has neither been declared as a monument of national importance nor is there any proposal with the Archaeological Survey of India to protect and conserve the Ashram.

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage

2282. SHRIPARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) will soon put up information boards in heritage buildings explaning their historic and architectural significance in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to cover monuments situated in other parts of the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The INTACH Delhi Chapter in collaboration with Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation Ltd. (DTTDC) has undertaken a project in Delhi to install signages (information boards) in some of the heritage buildings explaining their historical and architectural significance.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Fund for Bhagwan Mahavira birth anniversary celebrations

2283. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
SHRIMATI SAVITASHARDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned for various projects from Rs. 100 crore fund earmarked for Bhagwan Mahavira 2600th Birth Anniversary Celebrations, State-wise and project-wise;

(b) whether any proposal is still to be considered and approved from the above fund;